

Information Released under Freedom of Information Act

Subject: Copies of letters of complaint.

Date Released: 11 July 2008

Summary of request: Request for copies of letters of complaint received by Companies House.

Information released:

I should explain that Companies House receive a large number of letters each year enquiring whether companies are in breach of the Companies Act and as such we are obliged to investigate every case. I must point out that when handling such enquiries, Companies House has brought its procedures into line with those of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (its sponsoring department) and subsequently treat the source of all such correspondence with the strictest confidentiality. I regret therefore that I must refuse to disclose the information you require as it is exempt under section 41 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This states that information is exempt from disclosure if it was provided in confidence and the disclosure of which may constitute an actionable breach of confidence.

As is required by the legislation, I have also considered whether it is in the public interest to disclose this information and have concluded that in this case there is no broader public interest in doing so.